CLAIMS:

1. Flat panel display apparatus comprising plasma discharge cells having sustain electrodes (2c) and scan electrodes (2b); and a drive circuit having a circuit for providing data arranged in subfields to the discharge cells, the drive circuit incorporating an energy recovery circuit, and means for activating the energy recovery circuit only for a part of the total number of subfields.

2. Flat panel display apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said part of the number of subfields has on average a lower weight than the rest of the sub-fields.

3. Flat panel display apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein the part of the subfields all have a lower weight or an equal weight compared to the subfields for which in operation the energy recovery circuit is not activated.

4. Flat panel display apparatus according to claim 1, wherein data electrodes (1b) are present being positioned in a zigzag configuration.

5. Flat panel display apparatus according to claim 1, wherein rows and columns of pixels are present, each pixel comprising at least one discharge cell, a data electrode (1b) in a column direction being alternately coupled in subsequent rows to a cell of a pixel in a first column and to a cell of a pixel in a column adjacent to the first column.

6. Flat panel display apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the data electrode (1b) is coupled to cells, which emit substantially a same color.

7. Flat panel display apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the display apparatus comprises a discriminator having means for choosing the part of the subfields during which the energy recovery circuit is activated on the basis of the data to be displayed.

8. Flat panel display apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the discriminator in operation discriminates depending on the display- and/or subfield-load.

9. Flat panel display apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the number of subfields in which energy recovery is applied is fixed.

10. Method of displaying images on a flat-panel display apparatus comprising plasma discharge cells having sustain electrodes and scan electrodes; a drive circuit having a circuit for providing data arranged in subfields to the discharge cells; and an energy recovery circuit, the method comprising the step of activating the energy recovery circuit only for a part of the total number of subfields.